



# Pentagram

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## Spotlight

**Name:** Capt. Kimberly Sonntag

**Branch:** Marine Corps

**Hometown:** Alexandria, Va.

**Home unit:** Plans, Policies & Operations,  
Headquarters Marine Corps

**Military job:** Manpower Officer

**Task force job:** Exercise planner

The 58th Presidential Inauguration requires intense planning and a number of rehearsals, and Marine Capt. Kimberly Sonntag is part of a team that helps organize those exercises.

As an exercise planner for Joint Task Force-National Capital Region, Sonntag coordinates exercises to rehearse plans and procedures for military support to the inauguration, including walkthroughs on a map the size of a basketball court and the final dress rehearsal on the National Mall.

That coordination can include locating a venue, synchronizing with the different branches of the military and ensuring members of the inaugural task force are sharing information and expectations with the goal of training for every possible contingency, and ensuring the mission is accomplished.

"It's fantastic. This team is awesome," Sonntag said. "I've never done anything like this because it's outside of my specialty, but being a part of the planning process is actually a lot of fun. We're really excited to make this happen."

Sonntag's favorite part of her task force job has been getting to work with service members from other branches of the military.

"Everyone's just so excited. It's almost like being a kid," she said.

As a task force member who was already stationed in the area before being selected for this assignment, Sonntag's advice for task force members on temporary duty to Washington, D.C., is to get outside and walk around.

"It forces you to find things that you didn't know were there. You know the Smithsonian, but there are a lot of parts of the Smithsonian, so just get out there and walk around and explore and you'll stumble on the coolest things," she said.

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